



#9  
RESP. AMDT. a  
YH 12/26/01  
fwh  
Attorney Docket No. MP/147

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Laguna, et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/384,900  
Filed : August 27, 1999  
Title : An Improved Balloon Catheter And  
Method Of Mounting Same

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on December 5, 2001.

Melanee Williams  
Melanee Williams

Group Art Unit: 3763  
Examiner : J. Thissell

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

DEC 21 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700  
RECEIVED  
DEC 21 2001  
Pe 12/21/2001  
(date of mailing document)

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JUNE 6, 2001**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24. (amended) A sleeve adapted to be mounted on a catheter shaft so as to be formed into an inflatable balloon comprising the sleeve having a first end, a second end, and a middle section; wherein prior to mounting on catheter shaft at least one of the ends is non-distensible while the middle section of the sleeve is distensible.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 24 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action of June 6, 2001, each of the claims of the present application was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or §103(a). As is explained below, with the above amendment each of the claims is now in form for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.